



National Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month

April 2010

United States

The CDC estimates that there are 19 million new STD infections each year in the United States. Compared to older adults, sexually-active adolescents and young adults are at a higher risk for acquiring STDs due to behavioral, biological and cultural reasons. Persons age 15-24 acquire nearly half of all new STDs each year.

There is a rise in the rate of STDs among men who have sex with men (MSM) which may be associated with an increase in HIV diagnoses among MSM. Aside from syphilis, STD surveillance data do not include information on sexual behaviors, and therefore national trends for MSM are not available.

Chlamydia infections are the most prevalent of all STDs. In 2008, the overall rate of reported chlamydia infections among women was almost three times higher than the rate among men. From 2007 to 2008 the rate of chlamydia infections increased in all racial/ethnic groups.

Gonorrhea is the second most commonly-reported notifiable disease in the US. In 2008, gonorrhea rates were highest among adolescents and young adults. In 2008, the gonorrhea rate among blacks was over 20 times higher than the rate among whites.

From 2007 to 2008, the rate of primary and secondary syphilis increased in all racial/ethnic groups except American Indian/Alaska Natives. In 2008, African Americans accounted for 49% of all reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis.

Women with chlamydia or gonorrhea infections are at increased risk of developing Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) which can lead to reproductive system morbidity.

The rates of congenital syphilis have increased since 2004 after 14 years of decline. The highest rates of congenital syphilis are in the South and West regions of the US.

Louisiana

Chlamydia

In 2008, Louisiana had the fifth highest chlamydia case rate in the nation, and 22,659 newly reported cases. In 2008, the infection rate for chlamydia in Louisiana was 527.8 per 100,000, which was significantly higher than the national rate of 401.3 per 100,000.

Gonorrhea

In 2008, Louisiana had the second highest reported gonorrhea case rate in the nation. Louisiana's gonorrhea case rate in 2008 was 220.2 per 100,000 with 9,455 reported cases, which was twice as high as the national rate of 111.6 cases per 100,000.

For more information call the AIDS/STD Infoline at 1-800-99-AIDS-9 (1-800-992-4379) or visit www.HIV411.org.

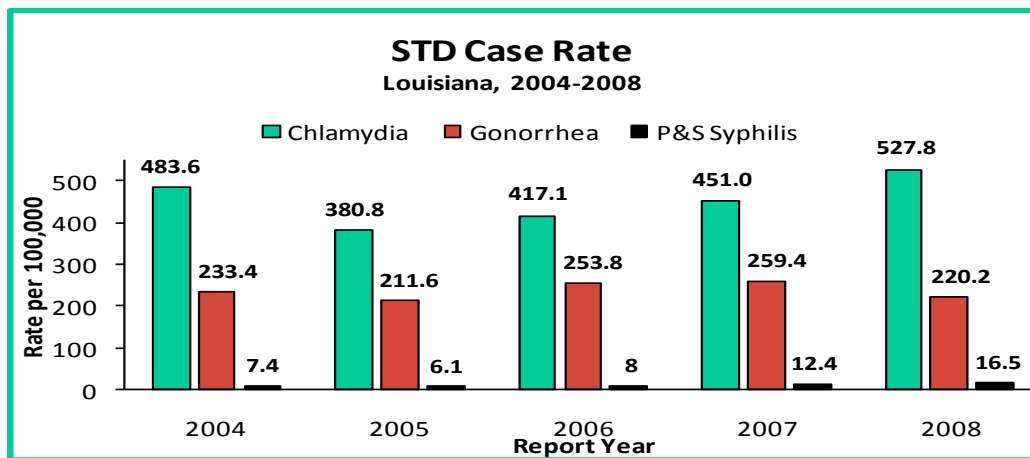


National Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month *April 2010*

Louisiana Continued

Syphilis

In 2008, Louisiana had the highest rate of primary and secondary syphilis (P&S) in the US at 16.5 per 100,000. Louisiana's syphilis case rate was almost 4 times higher than the national rate of 4.5 per 100,000. Louisiana has the highest rate of congenital syphilis in the nation, reporting 23 cases in 2008 and an annual diagnosis rate of 36.3 cases per 100,000 live births. Louisiana's congenital syphilis rate is almost four times higher than the national rate of 10.1 cases per 100,000 live births.



Young People 15-24 Years of Age

The most significantly impacted population for STDs in Louisiana is persons between the age of 15-24. In 2008 the rate of chlamydia was 2,542 per 100,000, the rate of gonorrhea was 926.9 per 100,000 and the rate of P&S syphilis was 38.5 per 100,000. The rates of new diagnoses for all three of these STDs in persons age 15-24, is significantly higher than the overall rates for the state.

HIV Infection

At the end of 2008, 16,277 persons were living with HIV infection in Louisiana. There were 1,168 new HIV diagnoses in Louisiana in 2008. The New Orleans region had the highest number and the highest case rate of new HIV diagnoses .

The HIV rate for African Americans continues to be disproportionately high; the rate for African Americans was seven times higher than among whites. Although African Americans make up only 32% of the state's population, 72% of newly-diagnosed HIV cases and 70% of newly-diagnosed AIDS cases were among African Americans in 2008.

Women represented 33% of new HIV diagnoses in 2008. The primary mode of transmission is high risk heterosexual contact (HRH).

The number of new diagnoses among MSM is increasing each year and this population is the most severely impacted, especially black MSM.